



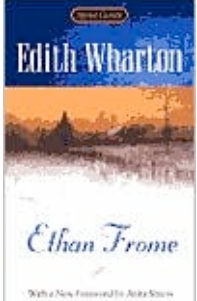


LITERATURE CIRCLES

Book Choices

Your group will read one of the following 5 books.

Book		Synopsis <i>(Provided by Barnes and Nobels.com)</i>
Farewell to Manzanar		<p>During World War II a community called Manzanar was hastily created in the high mountain desert country of California, east of the Sierras. Its purpose was to house thousands of Japanese American internees. One of the first families to arrive was the Wakatsukis, who were ordered to leave their fishing business in Long Beach and take with them only the belongings they could carry. For Jeanne Wakatsuki, a seven-year-old child, Manzanar became a way of life in which she struggled and adapted, observed and grew. For her father it was essentially the end of his life.</p> <p>At age thirty-seven, Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston recalls life at Manzanar through the eyes of the child she was. She tells of her fear, confusion, and bewilderment as well as the dignity and great resourcefulness of people in oppressive and demeaning circumstances. Written with her husband, Jeanne delivers a powerful first-person account that reveals her search for the meaning of Manzanar.</p>
The Things They Carried		<p>One of the first questions people ask about <i>The Things They Carried</i> is this: Is it a novel, or a collection of short stories? The title page refers to the book simply as "a work of fiction," defying the conscientious reader's need to categorize this masterpiece. It is both: a collection of interrelated short pieces which ultimately reads with the dramatic force and tension of a novel. Yet each one of the twenty-two short pieces is written with such care, emotional content, and prosaic precision that it could stand on its own.</p> <p><i>The Things They Carried</i> depicts the men of Alpha Company: Jimmy Cross, Henry Dobbins, Rat Kiley, Mitchell Sanders, Norman Bowker, Kiowa, and of course, the character Tim O'Brien who has survived his tour in Vietnam to become a father and writer at the age of forty-three. They battle the enemy (or maybe more the idea of the enemy), and occasionally each other. In their relationships we see their isolation and loneliness, their rage and fear. They miss their families, their girlfriends and buddies; they miss the lives they left back home. Yet they find sympathy and kindness for strangers (the old man who leads them unscathed through the mine field, the girl who grieves while she dances), and love for each other, because in Vietnam they are the only family they have. We hear the voices of the men and build images upon their dialogue. The way they tell stories about others, we hear them telling stories about themselves.</p> <p>With the creative verve of the greatest fiction and the intimacy of a searing autobiography, <i>The Things They Carried</i> is a testament to the men who risked their lives in America's most controversial war. It is also a mirror held up to the frailty of humanity. Ultimately <i>The Things They Carried</i> and its myriad protagonists call to order the courage, determination, and luck we all need to survive.</p>

Things Fall Apart		<p>The 1958 novel chronicles the life of Okonkwo, the leader of an Igbo (Ibo) community, from the events leading up to his banishment from the community for accidentally killing a clansman, through the seven years of his exile, to his return. Addresses the problem of the intrusion in the 1890s of white missionaries and colonial government into tribal Igbo society, and describes the simultaneous disintegration of its protagonist Okonkwo and of his village. The novel was praised for its intelligent and realistic treatment of tribal beliefs and of psychological disintegration coincident with social unraveling. Things Fall Apart helped create the Nigerian literary renaissance of the 1960s.</p>
The Illustrated Man		<p>“He was a riot of rockets and fountains and people, in such intricate detail and color that you could bear the voiced murmuring, small and muted, from the crowds that inhabited his body.”</p> <p>Ray Bradbury brings wonders alive. A peerless American storyteller, his oeuvre has been celebrated for decades--from The Martian Chronicles and Fahrenheit 451 to Dandelion Wine and Something Wicked This Way Comes.</p> <p>The Illustrated Man is classic Bradbury --a collection of tales that breathe and move, animated by sharp, intaken breath and flexing muscle. Here are eighteen startling visions of humankind's destiny, unfolding across a canvas of decorated skin--visions as keen as the tattooist's needle and as colorful as the inks that indelibly stain the body.</p> <p>The images, ideas, sounds and scents that abound in this phantasmagoric sideshow are provocative and powerful: the mournful cries of celestial travelers cast out cruelly into a vast, empty space of sturn and blackness ... the sight of gray dust settling over a forgotten outpost on a road that leads nowhere ... the pungent odor of Jupiter on a returning father's clothing. Here living cities take their vengeance, technology awakens the most primal natural instincts, Martian invasions are foiled by the good life and the glad hand, and dreams are carried aloft in junkyard rockets.</p>
Ethan Frome		<p>Ethan Frome, a poor, downtrodden New England farmer is trapped in a loveless marriage to his invalid wife, Zeena. His ambition and intelligence are oppressed by Zeena's cold, conniving character. When Zeena's young cousin Mattie arrives to help care for her, Ethan is immediately taken by Mattie's warm, vivacious personality. They fall desperately in love as he realizes how much is missing from his life and marriage. Tragically, their love is doomed by Zeena's ever-lurking presence and by the social conventions of the day. Ethan remains torn between his sense of obligation and his urge to satisfy his heart's desire up to the suspenseful and unanticipated conclusion.</p>

Meeting Dates and Pages Covered

Below are the meeting dates for the literature circles. It is your responsibility to be in class on these days. Your group is depending on you for the information you are supposed to supply. Each meeting is worth 50 points. If you are here, have completed your role, and your group is in dicussion (without interruption) for the entire class period, you will receive the 50 points.

If you are absent from class, you will be required to hand in your role sheet to someone in your group so that your group may use it during their discussion. You will also have to meet with me after school or before school for 30 minutes to make up the meeting date. A failure to do any of the afore mentioned will result in a reduction of points for the meeting or a zero for the meeting.

Meeting Date	Pages to be covered
April 7 (Monday)	_____ to _____
April 14 (Monday)	_____ to _____
April 21 (Monday)	_____ to _____
May 1 (Thursday)	_____ to _____
May 5 (Monday)	_____ to _____
May 12 (Monday)	_____ to _____

Notes: _____

Connector

Name _____ Period _____ Book _____

Page # _____ to Page # _____

Connector: Your job is to find connections between the book you are reading and the outside world. This means connecting what you read with your own life, to what happens at school or in the community, to similar events at other times and places, or to other people or problems. Once you have shared your connection to this section of the book, each member of your group will also relate their own connection to the book, although they may refer to a different passage.

Passage	Page #	Connection

Discussion Director

Name _____ Period _____ Book _____

Page # _____ to Page # _____

Discussion Director: Your job is to write a list of questions that your group might want to discuss about this part of the book. The best questions will come from your own thoughts, feelings, and ideas about this section of the book. Try to make them open-ended, though provoking questions. **You also need to write your own answers to these questions.**

Discusson Question:	Your Answer

Sample Questions:

- What was going through your mind when you read this?
- How did you feel when...?
- Did anything surprise you about this section of the book? Predict something about the next section of the book.

Illustrator

Name _____ Period _____ Book _____

Page # _____ to Page # _____

Illustrator: Your job is to draw some kind of a picture related to what you read in your section. It can be a sketch, cartoon, diagram, or stick figure scene. It can be about something that you read, something that the reading reminded you about, or an element of the story (plot, character, setting).

Presentation Plan: When the Discussion Director invites you to participate, you may show your picture without commenting on it, and let the others in your group individually guess what your picture means. After everyone has had a turn to guess, it is your turn to tell them what your picture means, where it came from, or what it represents to you. You may make your picture on this sheet, or on a separate page.

Literary Luminary

Name _____ Period _____ Book _____

Page # _____ to Page # _____

Literary Luminary: Your job is to choose a paragraph or sentences from the book to discuss with your group. Your purpose is to help other students by spotlighting something interesting, powerful, funny, puzzling, or important from the text. You can read parts aloud yourself, or ask another group member to read them. Include your reasons for picking the paragraphs or sections you did. Please record the page number and paragraph.

Paragraph and reason for choosing:

1. Page # _____ Paragraph # _____

2. Page # _____ Paragraph # _____

3. Page # _____ Paragraph # _____

4. Page # _____ Paragraph # _____

5. Page # _____ Paragraph # _____

Travel Tracer

Name _____ Period _____ Book _____

Page # _____ to Page # _____

Travel Tracer: In a book where characters move around a lot and the scenes change frequently, it is important for everyone in your group to know where things are happening and how the setting may have changed. Even if the scenery doesn't change much, the setting is still a very important part of the story. Your job is to track where the action takes place. Describe each setting in detail, either in words or with a picture map that you can show and discuss with your group. **Be sure to give the page numbers.**

	Page #s	Explanation and Details
Where the action begins:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3.
Where the key events happened:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3.
Where the events ended:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3.

Vocabulary Enricher

Name _____ Period _____ Book _____

Page # _____ to Page # _____

Vocabulary Enricher: Your job is to look for a few important words in your reading. If you find words that are puzzling or unfamiliar, mark them down on this page while you are reading. Later, you can look them up in a dictionary and write down their definitions. You may also find words in the reading that are significant to the story. Mark these words too, and be ready to point them out to the group. When your circle meets, help members find and discuss the words.

Word	Page #	Context in book	Definition